Neuro 101 Tutorships for Fall 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, January 16, 2026

The Neuroscience Standing Committee is soliciting applications to teach in the Neuro Tutorial Program for the Fall 2026 semester. Tutorial courses explore an advanced topic in neuroscience that is not already covered in depth by our curriculum. Tutorials offer post-docs an opportunity to gain experience teaching their own small class; they also offer faculty members a chance to teach in a small, informal setting. These classes meet once a week (2 hours), typically in the late afternoon or evening, for a single semester. Students from all concentrations are eligible to enroll, although preference is given to students who are concentrating in Neuroscience.

For undergraduates, the Neuro 101 Tutorial Program provides the unique opportunity to associate with a professional biologist/medical scientist in a small group setting and to gain experience in reading, analyzing, and discussing research papers. The seminars are small (12 students or less) and build upon a mentored partnership between the students and the tutor, which bridges the gap between lecture courses and independent research. They also serve as one entry point for thesis work and help students to identify research topics, hypotheses, potential laboratories, and mentors. Response to the tutorials has been extremely positive from students and tutors alike. Many students list their Neuro tutorial as their favorite class at Harvard. A list of current tutorials can be found at: https://www.mcb.harvard.edu/undergraduate/neuroscience/neuro-courses/?course-button=tutorials

ELIGIBILITY AND LOGISTICS: Harvard postdoctoral fellows may apply with permission from their mentor. Current faculty members are also encouraged to apply. Advanced Harvard graduate students are ineligible to apply as primary instructors; however, with permission from their mentor and their respective graduate programs, they may apply as a co-instructor along with a post-doctoral fellow or faculty member. For postdoctoral fellows, tutorial appointments are compensated for 0.4 FTE (~$13,150 for AY 2024-25) paid out over five months.

Because the Neuro tutorials are considered advanced neurobiology elective courses within the concentration, each tutorial must list as its prerequisites MCB/Neuro 80 (Neurobiology of Behavior) AND permission of the instructor. Additional prerequisites are at the discretion of the instructor. New tutorials should not significantly overlap with the current course offerings listed on the “Electives” and “Tutorials” tabs of the Neuroscience website: https://www.mcb.harvard.edu/undergraduate/neuroscience/neuro-courses/?course-button=electives

Faculty and postdoctoral fellows who are interested in applying for a Neuro 101 tutorship position should submit their application no later than **Friday, January 16, 2026.** After members of the Neuroscience Standing Committee review the applications, prospective tutors will be contacted and invited for an interview.

General tutorial questions can be directed to Dr. Laura Magnotti (magnotti@fas.harvard.edu). You are welcome and encouraged to discuss your application with Dr. Magnotti prior to submitting your application to the committee.

Please note the following restrictions:

- If you are supported by a NIH-NIGMS Fellowship, you cannot be paid for teaching.
- If you are on a H-1B visa, you cannot teach.

APPLICATION FOR A FALL 2026 NEURO 101 TUTORSHIP

Following a review of your application, prospective tutors will be contacted and invited for an interview.

The TITLE PAGE should include the following information:

1. Name
2. Work address including affiliation/status/location (e.g., professor, instructor, lecturer, postdoc, etc.). Graduate students are not eligible to apply as primary instructors.
3. Telephone number
4. Email address
5. Title of the proposed tutorial seminar (100 characters or less, including spaces)
6. Course description of the proposed seminar (3500 characters or less, including spaces)
7. Prerequisites: The prerequisites must include MCB/Neuro 80 and permission of the instructor. Additional courses/topics are at the discretion of the seminar instructor.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. An outline of the course including:
    a. A tentative syllabus with specific topics to be covered throughout the semester (2 hours per class; 1 class per week; 13 weeks). Indicate class time/class periods of lecture versus paper presentation/discussion, etc. The Harvard academic calendar can be found here.

   b. A sample description of how you will conduct a typical tutorial meeting.
   c. Brief statement of methods of instruction you plan to include in class (e.g., your approach to student-centered learning, student participation and scholarship in discussion, group dynamics, integration of specific reference materials and latest scientific developments, etc.).
   d. Typical weekly student workload (suggested ~ 5-7 hrs/wk outside class)
   e. Any oral presentations/written assignments.
   f. Grading: Suggested basis for letter grade determination.
2. Current curriculum vitae.
3. Any previous teaching experience (1 page max).

Postdoctoral fellows and graduate students are required to also include:

1. A signed confirmation letter from your mentor that simply states his/her approval of your commitment as a tutor in the Neuro 101 Tutorial program.
2. DMS students will also need to obtain Samantha Reed's signature. Ms. Reed is the Executive Director of Administration and Student Affairs for DMS. You can find her in TMEC 435; phone: 617-432-0276; email: samantha_reed@hms.harvard.edu

Please submit all materials by Friday, January 16, 2026 to be considered for a Fall 2026 tutorial.
For further information, contact Dr. Laura Magnotti (magnotti@fas.harvard.edu)